



WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION, INC.

2400 Wright Street, Room 208, Madison, WI 53704-2572 • Tel: (608) 242-3114 • www.winga.org
Michael Williams, *Executive Director*, michael.j.williams@winga.org
Lynn Rasmussen, *Administrative Assistant*, lrasmussen@winga.org

1 April 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR WINGA Membership

FROM WINGA Legislative Committee Chair

1. The committee is focused on three lines of effort for the Wisconsin National Guard: Army, Air and Joint. Top issues include:
2. ***Preserve military readiness by modernizing MilTech program:*** The fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required the conversion of at least 20% of National Guard “dual-status” military technicians into federal civilian employees. The 2017 NDAA delayed the effective date to October 1, 2017.

UPDATE: 30 March 2017 - Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-LA), introduced S. 766 and H. 1777, which take significant steps to minimize the negative impact of § 1053 of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. These bills modernize and enhance the National Guard Military Technician program and preserve the Guard’s readiness for state and federal military missions, including responses to civil emergencies.

The legislation modernizes the Technician Act of 1968 by addressing several concerns, including bonus eligibility for military technicians, access to Tricare reserve select and the establishment of a binding appeals process that is quick and efficient.

The legislation will also reduce the requirement that the Department of Defense must convert 20 percent of all military technicians from members of the Guard to full-time federal civilian employee status by October 1, 2017. The bill instead supports the military judgment of state Adjutants General and the findings of the Department of Defense that no more than 4.8 percent of current dual-status military technicians in the Guard and Reserves can be converted to full-time federal civilian employees without degrading military readiness. It also preserves the non-dual status Title 32 civilian employees – all of which maintain the readiness and responsiveness of the Wisconsin National Guard.

3. ***Preserve and strengthen military readiness: restore & build force structure.*** The 2011 Budget Control Act/Sequestration forced reductions in personnel and reduced force structure. Congress halted the reduction of personnel, but force structure reductions continue as planned for the ARNG. Current planned reductions will exacerbate existing readiness challenges and impede the National Guard’s ability to provide ready forces to meet our dual state and federal missions.